

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for administering performance of a contract using a server accessible by a plurality of performing parties through a data network, the method comprising:

receiving performance data at the server from at least one of the performing parties through the data network, the performance data indicating an amount of work performed under the contract by the at least one performing party; and

automatically calculating a contract markup amount based on the performance data; and

determining a payment amount based on the performance data and the contract markup amount.

2. (Original) The method for administering performance of the contract according to claim 1, in which the network comprises a public Internet.

3. (Original) The method for administering performance of the contract according to claim 1, in which the performance data further comprises an amount of material stored.

4. (Original) The method for administering performance of the contract according to claim 1, further comprising initially storing a schedule of values associated with performance of the contract, wherein determining the payment amount is further based on comparing the performance data with the schedule of values.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method for administering performance of the contract according to claim [[5]] 1, further comprising:

sending the payment amount from the server to another one of the performing parties through the data network.

7. (Currently amended) The method for administering performance of the contract according to claim [[5]] 6, further comprising:

sending an electronic message to another one of the performing parties indicating that the payment amount has been determined; and

receiving a request from the messaged party to receive the payment amount through the data network.

8. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The method for administering performance of the contract according to claim [[8]] 1, in which determining the ~~amount of payment~~ amount to the subcontractor is further based on ~~subcontracting~~ a retainage amount, the retainage amount being a predetermined percentage applied to the application for payment.

12. (Currently amended) A method for administering performance of a project using web server accessible through a packet switched data network, the method comprising:

creating a general contract schedule of values relating to the project, the general contract schedule of values comprising a plurality of general contract line items;

receiving at least one subcontract schedule of values via the packet switched data network, the subcontract schedule of values comprising a plurality of subcontract line items;

receiving associations between the subcontract line items of each subcontract schedule of values and the general contract line items of the general contract schedule of values;

receiving at least one subcontract application for payment via the packet switched data network, the subcontract application for payment including the subcontract line items;

updating the general contract line items based on information in the associated subcontract line items received in the subcontract application for payment; and

creating a general contract application for payment based on the updated contract line items;

wherein the general contract application for payment automatically determines a total performed work amount and a payment amount due based on the total ~~completed~~ performed work amount.

13. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 12, further comprising submitting the general contract application for payment via the packet switched data network.

14. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 13, further comprising receiving an approval of the general contract application for payment via the packet switched data network.

15. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 12, further comprising initially creating a project profile and assigning roles to participants, including the at least one subcontractor and at least one of an owner and an architect.

16. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 15, in which assigning roles comprises selecting at least one of the participants from a database accessible by the web server.

17. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 15, in which assigning roles comprises identifying a proxy to represent the at least one of the participants, wherein the subcontract schedule of values and the subcontract application for payment are received from the proxy.

18. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 12, in which the subcontract schedule of values is based on a predetermined template accessible through the packet switched data network.

19. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 12, in which creating the general contract application for payment is further based on a change order corresponding to at least one of the general contract schedule of values and the at least one subcontract schedule of values.

20. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 12, in which creating the general contract application for payment includes entering at least one of a work completed amount and a material presently stored amount.

21. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 20, in which entering at least one of the work completed amount and the material presently stored amount is performed automatically based on the subcontract application for payment.

22. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 20, in which entering at least one of the work completed amount

and the material presently stored amount comprises receiving a dictated amount, different than the at least one of the work completed amount and the material presently stored amount, via the packet switched data network.

23. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 12, further comprising modifying the received subcontractor application for payment before updating the general contract line items, based on permission to modify the received subcontractor application received via the packet switched data network.

24. (Original) The method for administering performance of the project according to claim 12, in which the packet switched data network comprises a public Internet.

25. – 27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A system for enabling a contract payment process, comprising:

a database for storing data relating to each plurality of users, the data comprising an account number corresponding to each user; and

a computer for receiving via a communications network a payment request from at least one user of the plurality of users, the request for payment being based on performance of at least one portion of the contract by the user;

wherein an electronic payment directed to the account number corresponding to the user is initiated in response to the payment request when the payment request is approved.

29. (Previously Presented) The new system according to claim 28, wherein the server is configured for tracking a status of completion of work under the contract

based, at least in part, on the performance of at least a portion of the contract by the user.

30. (Previously Presented) The new system according to claim 28, wherein the server is configured for sending or receiving information to the at least one user via e-mail, the information relating to at least one of a draw, an inspection and an approval.

31. (New) A method for administering performance of a contract using a server accessible by a plurality of performing parties through a data network, the method comprising:

receiving performance data at the server from at least one of the performing parties through the data network, the performance data indicating an amount of work performed under the contract by the at least one performing party;

determining a payment amount based on the performance data; and

sending the payment amount from the server to another one of the performing parties through the data network.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

sending an electronic message to the other one of the performing parties indicating that the payment amount has been determined; and

receiving a request from the other one of the performing parties to receive the payment amount through the data network,

wherein the payment amount is sent from the server to the other one of the performing parties through the data network in response to the received request.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein sending the payment amount from the server to another one of the performing parties through the data network comprises sending an electronic payment to a predetermined account of the other one of the performing parties.

34. (New) A computer readable medium storing a computer program for administering performance of a contract, the computer program being executed by a computer accessible through a data network, the computer readable medium comprising:

- a general schedule of values code segment for enabling creation of a general contract schedule of values relating to the project, the general contract schedule of values comprising a plurality of general contract line items;

- a subcontract schedule of values code segment for receiving at least one subcontract schedule of values via the data network, the subcontract schedule of values comprising a plurality of subcontract line items;

- an associating code segment for receiving associations between the subcontract line items of each subcontract schedule of values and the general contract line items of the general contract schedule of values;

- a subcontract payment application code segment for receiving at least one subcontract application for payment via the packet switched data network, the subcontract application for payment including the subcontract line items;

- an updating code segment for automatically updating the general contract line items based on information in the associated subcontract line items received in the subcontract application for payment; and

- a general contract payment application code segment for creating a general contract application for payment based on the updated contract line items;

- wherein the general contract application code segment automatically determines a total performed work amount and a payment amount due based on the total completed work amount.

35. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:

- a project creating code segment for enabling initial creation a project profile and assignment of roles to participants, including the at least one subcontractor and at least one of an owner and an architect.

36. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 35, in which assigning roles comprises selecting at least one of the participants from a database accessible by the computer.

37. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 35, in which assigning roles comprises identifying a proxy to represent the at least one of the participants, wherein the subcontract schedule of values and the subcontract application for payment are received from the proxy.